

Serenity  
Sentinel



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SERENITY SPIRITUALIST ASSOCIATION  
EXTENDS ITS SINCERE APPRECIATION  
TO ITS MANY FRIENDS  
WHO HAVE JOINED OUR GROWING  
FAMILY OF  
CHURCH AND CAMP BUILDERS

# OH GOD WE LOVE

*By Richard P. Goodwin*

*Oh God we love the roses,  
The weeds and thistles too;  
Oh God we love the butterflies,  
The snakes that crawl are you.  
Oh God we love the ones who hate,  
The ones who live in fear;  
We love them more each day we live  
For all to Thee are dear.  
Oh God we love the ones who see  
But even more the blind;  
For in our love we hope and pray  
Their sight may be Divine.  
Oh God we love all paths to Thee,  
For in them we can see  
A light that shines to all mankind  
In varying degree.  
Oh God we love the sunshine,  
The darkness and the night;  
Oh God we love the weak and strong,  
For in them is Thy might.  
Oh God we love all things in life,  
For in them we find Thee,  
A shining light that's dim or bright  
For all mankind to see.*

# Declaration of Principles, NSAC

**WE BELIEVE THAT THE HIGHEST MORALITY IS CONTAINED IN THE GOLDEN RULE: " WHATSOEVER YE WOULD THAT OTHERS SHOULD DO UNTO YOU, DO YE ALSO UNTO THEM."**

This precept we believe to be true. It points the way to harmony, peace and happiness. Wherever tried it has proven successful and when fully understood and practiced, will bring peace and happiness to man on earth.



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## ANSWERS TO

# Ever-Recurring Questions From the People

By Andrew Jackson Davis

## THE NATURE AND MOTION OF COMETS

**XI. - QUESTION:** "Do Comets have a fixed path or orbit in the heavens? The prediction by an American Astronomer, that the Comet of 1856 would return to us some time this season, calls out some discussion in reference to them."

**ANSWER:** Nothing can produce such universal interest as the approach of a mighty and brilliant comet. Such a celestial phenomenon has been in all ages associated with great events in the history of nations. Comets have been superstitiously regarded as extemporized "signs in the heavens," as precursors of calamities, as supernatural images indicative of wonderful and fearful changes in the affairs of humanity.

Though the appearance of fiery comets cannot fail to excite universal wonder and admiration, not unmixed with reverential awe, we do not appreciate any reason in the superstitious trepidation which some persons experience on the event of their near approach to the earth's orbit. For the principle of logic is not more exact and immutable than is the path of the fire-clad comet. Its nucleus is faithful to the fixed laws of attraction and repulsion. The wondrous "tail," though of vast magnitude and far-extending, is invariably

obedient to the dictates of the "head." No eccentric character is less to be feared than a comet--the youngest born of the solar mother--the wild, yet obedient child of the central producing cause. Behold, how constitutionally well-balanced such offspring are--how well-established in habits of good will and punctuality--never so much as deceiving those who calculate accurately their magnitude and period of revolution.

The Chinese, 178 years before the Christian era, and about the time of the birth of Mithridates, described a comet as bright as the sun. Its nucleus was tinged with red, like the blaze of an intense coal fire, and its appendage extended over a fourth of the sky. But its departure was as noiseless as its advent, leaving our globe, and its superstitious inhabitants, without spot or blemish. The sword-shaped comet which appeared with a very remarkable nucleus in the East, in 389 of our era, filled the supernaturalists with the greatest consternation. But no harm came of it, neither could there have been any evil from it; for like every other juvenile of sidereal space, it honored its parents and fulfilled the conditions of immutable law.

And such, in truth, is the established character of every polar youth. And yet nothing is more amazing than the speed of these apparently reckless saurians of the upper sea. Newton measured the comet of 1681, and determined its velocity at the time of perihelion passage, and found that its flight was 880,000 miles an hour! Hundreds of comets are yet to be discovered, for some of them require from ten to twenty thousand years to traverse their appropriate orbits, and such have

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20

# All the Spiritualism of the Christian Bible

By Rev. E. W. Sprague

## Peter Under Spirit Control Again.

Verse 8: "Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost (under spirit control), said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel," etc.

Heals the Impotent Man  
by Power of Spirit of Jesus.  
Peter Says.

Verse 9: "If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man by what means he is made whole;"

Verse 10: "Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole" (healed).

## Peter and John Uneducated.

Verse 13: "Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marveled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus."

Verse 14: "And beholding the man which was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it."

Ancient Spiritualism, or modern Christianity, like Modern Spiritualism, produced results,

healed the sick, gave spirit messages, and materialized spirits to the view of men, and demonstrated its claims.

Verse 16: The apostles opponents acknowledged that this was "a notable miracle" and they "could not deny it."

### **Physical Manifestations by Spirits.**

Verse 31: "And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost (spirit power), and they spake the word of God with boldness."

The above is a very common experience with Spiritualists.

### **Ananias and Sapphira Lie to the Spirits.**

Acts V., Verse 1: "But a certain man named Ananias with Sapphira, his wife, sold a possession."

Verse 2: "And kept back part of the price, his wife being privy to it, and brought a part and laid it at the apostles' feet."

### **Ananias Struck Dead for Lying to the Spirit.**

Verse 3: "But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost (spirit influencing) and to keep back part of the price of the land?"

Peter must have received this fact from the spirit friends, as no one had told him.

Verse 4: Peter accuses him of lying to God.

Verse 5: Ananias fell down dead.

Verse 6: They carried him out and buried him.

### **Ananias' Wife, Sapphira, Killed Also.**

Verse 7: Three hours after came his wife, not knowing what her husband had done.

Verse 8: She told the same story.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 19**

## Evolution Spiritually Interpreted

By Andrew Jackson Davis

### ORGANIC EVOLUTION

The ultimate use of Nature is to individualize and immortalize the human spiritual principle. Nature, therefore, is a mighty and Magnificent Machine, and the Divine Mind the omnipotent and omniscient Artisan. Now, we may consider the machine as perfect and being complete and adequate to the great ultimate End for the accomplishment for which it was instituted. That Nature is perfect and complete in all her parts is demonstrated by the perpetually presented fact that human beings are born, and that human spirits constantly ascend to higher spheres.

If, then, God has constructed this great machine upon principles of unchanging order, harmony and progression--and it is perfect even to the adjustment of an atom--it is unreasonable to inquire why he is not still engaged constructing it.

We must understand that every mineral bed is a foundation stone, that every class of plants is a belt, and that every animal is a wheel in the sublime mechanical structure of Nature, and Man is the glorious result of its harmonious movements. Hence, should we see plants growing without their germs; or the quadrupeds changing into Man; or Man developing other than by the familiar means of impregnation and reproduction--I

say, should we behold these phenomena which belong to centuries past, then would Nature be imperfect because God would still be engaged in constructing and perfecting this vast Invention.

### Important Change in Earth's Development

At an early period of the Earth's history, and subsequent to the formation of the primary and secondary strata, a mighty and universal change occurred in the condition of the atmosphere, which was caused by a general earthquake; in consequence of the favorableness of this change there was corresponding alteration in the situation of many intermediate strata and also an improvement in the condition and refinement of almost all the terrestrial and divine elements which were previously tending to higher formations.

Now let the mind pass rapidly over many centuries--remembering that the principle of progression and development were incessantly working out their legitimate mission; that there were going on a constant refinement and rarification of all atoms, substances and vitalizing essences throughout Nature. And now we come to an interesting Era in the system of physical development.

The igneous rocks are formed; the primary, secondary, transition and superficial strata are fully confirmed in their structure and position; the diluvial and alluvial formations are perfect and engaged in generating and eliminating many elements of life and vitality. The various other groups of the vegetable kingdom have arrived at the summit of their susceptibility to the proliferation of surrounding substances, essences, and condition.

Now there occurred a marriage between the

highest forms and essences of the vegetable kingdom—in other language, those particles of matter and elements of life in each system which experienced an affinity for one another converged and united; and the consequence was, assisted by surrounding conditions and circumstances, a development of the first form of animal life.

### Development of Lower Organic Kingdoms

It is not my present intention to examine the evidences which supports this system of organic creation; my object now is to trace the progressive development of the animal kingdom up to Man. By the first form of animal life, I mean the most inferior order of the radiata—including in its subsequent developments the various and almost innumerable classes of zoophyta, polypiaria, etc., which then abundantly peopled the sea.

But another Era arrived in the order of creation and there came forth a new and higher class of organizations, fitted to the conditions and influences of food and atmosphere which then existed. And thus the saurian kingdom was unfolded, including in its many and various developments every species of averstacea, ichthosaurus, together with every species of crocodiles, reptilia, crustaceous fishes, and batracians. The last named order, batrachia includes frogs, toads, salamanders and every species of the protens.

The protean animals are such as alter their anatomy and physiology several times during their brief existence. This phenomenon in Nature is illustrated by the frog which, previous to assuming its ultimate form, undergoes two distinct and important changes.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

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## **Becoming A Spiritualist**

**By H. Gordon Burroughs**

Many people do not accept Spiritualism as a religion. There are a number of ways of approach to the study of psychic science. Many approach from a purely scientific standpoint. True, Spiritualism is a science, but it is also a philosophy and a religion. Any movement that has for its purpose a binding together of individuals in a mutual society, association, or group and gives to that group something of a tangible working principle by which they may live, a standard of ethics, is a religion, and this Spiritualism does.

To those who accept Spiritualism or approach it from the scientific viewpoint, it opens an avenue for the exploring of forces and energies with which they heretofore had not been familiar. It is a science, it is true, because it classifies, analyzes, segregates, and tabulates facts. It asks for sincere investigation.

We accept it as a religion because of the teachings which we have received and do receive from those who have passed from this sphere of activity to the broader experiences in God's ever-present eternal now. If we speak of a thought, "ism", cult, or religion as something which gives us consolation, removes fear, establishes faith which finally leads us to knowledge, Spiritualism does just that for the investigator. All other religions from

time immemorial have preached faith alone. We have had to accept everything by mere faith. If we did not have faith and could not establish faith in any of the religious systems presented to us, we were more or less outcasts, many people going so far as to deny the very possibility of a life after death. Until the birth of Spiritualism as a religion, there had never been a religion which scientifically demonstrated continuity of life after death.

TO BE CONTINUED



## MEDIUMSHIP EXPLAINED

### What Is Mediumship?

By E. W. & M. H. Wallis

## SPIRIT, SOUL AND BODY

The spirit is connected with the body by means of the soul, or psychical body, which in turn affects the brain, the nerves and muscles of the outer body, through the agency of which it expresses itself, and the quality and extent of such expression will depend upon the degree of responsiveness and psychic development in the individual concerned.

'For of the soule the bodie forme doth take;  
For soule is forme, and doth the bodie make.'

Some people may, and probably will, be conscious that they are sepulchred in the flesh, the spirit being so deeply immured within the body

that it is well-nigh helpless and but dimly aware of its possibilities and destiny. Others will realise more or less fully that they can use the body, master and control it, instead of being its slave.

Most people possess the faculty of sight, but all do not see alike. Some are colour blind; some have clearer sight than others. We, are apt to imagine that because trees, houses, and other objects present a certain appearance to us they will appear exactly the same to those around us. On general lines they do, but undoubtedly different people are differently affected and perceive differently. Some people have innate artistic powers, and although everyone with patience and endeavor may develop something of the artistic nature, all cannot be past masters in artistic expression. Some have a natural gift for mechanics, some for music, some for oratory, others for song; in others these gifts can be induced to a limited extent, and again in others while the reasoning faculties may be active the artistic nature may be dormant. Man's spiritual possibilities are no exception. Some people exercise their psychic powers naturally and freely, in others the activity of the spiritual perceptions can be cultivated or induced, while the remaining class have little or no knowledge of the existence of their powers, or of how to develop them.

TO BE CONTINUED



**THE COVER** — An ordinary leaf displays unusual patterns of light-like aura when photographed with the Kirlian photographic technique developed by the Soviets. Russian parapsychologists claim this aura, found on the boundaries of living tissue and objects, is a "biological plasma," a new form of energy different from electrical, magnetic, or mechanical energy.

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**A Catechism of Spiritual Philosophy**

**By W. J. Colville**

**WHO ARE THE PROPHETS AND WHAT IS PROPHECY, Continued from last issue**

**Q. What type of man or woman is usually a prophet?**

A. One who is entirely fearless of the opinion of others; one who is willing, if necessary, to be martyred for the sake of conviction.

**Q. Are not children sometimes prophets?**

A. Very often, and it is easier for them to exercise their gift than for older people, because they are franker as a rule and far less readily affected by the opinions of those around them.

**Q. Are prophets highly sensitive?**

A. Exceptionally so, but not in the common meaning of the word. They are especially responsive to inspiration from exalted spiritual sources and therefore less readily influenced than ordinary by the thoughts and wishes of persons around them.

**Q. Can we cultivate the gift of prophecy?**

A. We can, undoubtedly; but chiefly by giving free rein to whatever inspiration comes to us. When we are impelled to deliver a message we should freely utter it, but that is not saying that

those who are addressed need blindly follow an exhortation.

**Q. If prophets can foresee the future, is not that a proof of fatalism?**

A. By no means. The fatalistic theory is that every event in the life of every one is so pre-ordained or pre-necessitated that no room is left for individual initiative. The prophetic idea is only that there is an unalterable connection between causes and effects.

**Q. How, then, do you explain the admitted fact that prophets actually foretell events which do afterwards occur precisely as they have been foretold?**

A. If one is sufficiently clairvoyant to see below the surface of the ground and watch certain varieties of seeds sprouting in the earth, it is not difficult for him to predict the nature of a coming harvest; in like manner a prophet often sees what is already going on in the psychic realm and which must eventually bring forth physical results.

**Q. Is it not sometimes the case that prophets become aware of the purposes of intelligences who are designers or architects in spirit life?**

A. Such is the case frequently; for that reason it is often stated that events are foreordained and they frequently are in the same sense that we plan a building and draw a sketch of it prior to its material erection.

**Q. Has fortune-telling any connection with prophecy?**

A. To reply to that question fully would require an elaborate treatise on the meaning of the term

employed but as fortune-telling is usually described, we should pronounce it far inferior to prophecy.

**TO BE CONTINUED**

## **FROM FIRE MIST TO MAN, Continued**

Minerals and vegetables unfolded the Pisces or fish kingdom, and after this kingdom unfolded the Saurian kingdom, then the latter arrived at a point of extreme development and unfolded the Bird kingdom. The first order of birds, of course, was vastly inferior to those which now exist; but by constant progression and improvement in the physical condition of the earth and the atmosphere, the inferior orders gradually advanced to the confirmation of the most perfect of that form of animal life.

And then there was another focal-concentrated-convergence of the elements and substances which planted the germ, which germ being urged and quickened into full development by the conspiracy of universal nature resulted in the unfolding of the Marsupial kingdom. Marsupia are animals possessed of pouches in which they carry and cherish their young--such as the opossum and the kangaroo.

**TO BE CONTINUED**

## **CHRISTIAN BIBLE, Continued**

Verse 9: "Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out."

Verse 10: "Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yeilded up the ghost," and they buried her by her husband.

**TO BE CONTINUED**

## **EVER-RECURRING QUESTIONS, Continued**

not, therefore, come within the written history of mankind. The last great comet of 1858, and which, on the eleventh of October of that year, was seen from pole to pole, called Donati's, was among the most brilliant and gorgeous spectacles ever presented in our firmament.

Many comets almost graze the bosom of the sun. They seem to seek the closest perihelion possible, without doing their mother an injury. This close approximation to their maternal source is powerfully suggestive of the inherent principle of filial love in all matter. Although some warm-hearted comets would seem to plunge headlong into the homestead property, and appear with their unrestrained impetuosity to threaten immediate contact and destruction, yet never was the time when one of these eccentric children of the sun wrought the least harm in the nebula-fields and star-gardens of immensity.

That the saurian-like monster comets of the stellar sea are harmless is established by science. And that these wondrous bodies have fixed orbits is proved by the fact that astronomers have calculated their magnitude, ascertained their speed of motion in perihelion, comprehended their relative proportions, and, stranger than all, have predicted the precise period of revolution, and some of the comets do not disappoint their earthly friends and observers.

If others have, the fact is attributable to the mistakes of the astronomer in fixing his data; for the comet is orderly in its travelings, and should not be blamed for non-appearance at the appointed time. But we have something more to offer on these solar matters, which is reserved for another day more fitting.

**TO BE CONTINUED**

THIS ISSUE'S COVER COURTESY OF  
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| July 20 . . . . .       | Men's Club   |
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| July 23 . . . . .       | Seminar      |
| August 17 . . . . .     | Men's Club   |
| August 18 . . . . .     | Ladies Guild |
| August 27 . . . . .     | Seminar      |
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| September 15 . . . . .  | Ladies Guild |
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